

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 14-45 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claim 1 is currently amended.

Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Williamson (U.S. Pat. Not. 6,349,427). Referring to Figure 2A, claim 1 is rewritten to recite "A structure, comprising: an external terminal (100); a reference terminal (102); a first transistor (106) formed on a substrate, the first transistor having a current path electrically connected between the external terminal and the reference terminal; a second transistor (118) having a current path electrically connected between the external terminal and the substrate; and a third transistor (120) having a current path electrically connected between the substrate and the reference terminal, wherein the current paths of the second and third transistors have a same conductivity type and are in parallel with the current path of the first transistor." (emphasis added). Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the current paths of the second and third transistors have a same conductivity type. In the embodiment of Figure 2A, transistors 118 and 120 are both N-channel. Applicants believe that the present amendment overcomes Williamson and places the application in a condition for allowance. Thus, claim 1 and depending claims 2, 6-7, and 11-12 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Moreover, claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as depending from a patentable base claim.

In view of the present amendment, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-13. If Examiner finds any issue that is unresolved, please call applicants' attorney by dialing the telephone number printed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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